

**Minutes of the
Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council (NRTTC)
June 17, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Schmeeckle Reserve, 2419 North Point Drive,
Stevens Point, WI 54481**

1. Meeting was called to order by Dana Johnson. Members in attendance: Dana Johnson, David Phillips, Geoff Snudden, Bill Hauda, Blake Theisen, Rod Bartlow. Staff: Jill Mrotek-Glenzinski (Department of Transportation), Brigit Brown (Department of Natural Resources). Others present: Kerry Irons (Adventure Cycling Association), Brook Waalen (Gandy Dancer State Trail, Ice Age Trail Alliance), and John Shank (Ice Age Trail Alliance).
2. Meeting minutes from the April 8 and April 10, 2015 meeting approved.
3. Dave Phillips discussed the bylaws requirement for officer terms (*Section 4. A. The council will have a chair and vice-chair elected by the council annually at the first meeting of each new year. Both the chair and vice-chair may be elected for no more than three successive terms.*) Phillips will solicit current officers to determine their interest.
4. Committee Chair Reports.
 - a. **Funding.** Bill Hauda reviewed the current budget situation and that it was expected for further discussions to take place in the coming days, with the budget to hopefully be finalized by July 1. Geoff Snudden mentioned that discussions of interest may be taking place regarding funding, such as the proposal for a bike tax. Council agreed to have a nonmotorized recreation funding discussion agenda item at the next meeting.
 - b. **Outreach.** Contact information from the survey has been imported for future use for communications.
 - c. **Education.** Blake Theisen sent out the results from the survey and compiled a graphic representation of the survey response locations (by zip code). Blake handed out the data from the survey. One interesting result is that, although most of the responses are from major cities, Vilas County really stood out as an area with a smaller population that responded heavily to the survey. More than 4,200 trail names were entered. Blake reviewed the names and came up with a list of the top 40 most popular trails. A few interesting things to note: the North Kettle Moraine State Forest Horse Trails came in at number 13, and six of the 1,977 email addresses were collected from respondents who wanted to know more. As a next step, Dana will assemble a message covering the results of the survey and promoting participation in the Bikeways Project. Joel Patenaude will be asked to write an intro to the email.

5. Bill Hauda stated that Friends of the Badger State Trail is desirous of adding the Badger State Trail to the U.S. Bike Route System. Kerry Irons, with the technical assistance organization for the U.S. Bike Route System, provided an overview of the purpose and goals of the USBR program. For this proposal, a connection to USBR in Illinois, preferably with a connection to the north to USBR 8 in northern Wisconsin, would be required to meet the aim of the USBRS to create a national network, rather than short pieces. The routes currently identified for Wisconsin are prioritized corridors, meaning that they are the initial goals for designation

Rod Bartlow and others expressed that there would need to be more concrete information on the connections to the Badger State Trail before the NRTTC would consider further action on this proposal.

6. Bill Hauda discussed the Bike Fed's contract (with WisDOT) to determine a route for U.S. Bike Route 30.

7. Dana Johnson discussed her participation in the [Bikeways Project](#) focus group conference call.

Discussion about where the Bikeways Project route information will be used and if, for example, the routes will be uploaded to Google maps. Brown provided a brief update on the Bikeways Project: the first round of open houses concluded in early June, the Bikeways Project Wikimap feedback tool will be available until the end of the month, and may be extended. The project team will take the feedback received from the open houses, Wikimap, focus groups, and discussion with groups such as the Regional Planning Organizations across the state to develop draft routes. The draft routes will be presented to the public in early fall for feedback. A second round of open houses and Wikimap will be used to gather public feedback on the draft routes.

8. Brook Waalen, Member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance Board of Directors, joined the meeting to discuss his displeasure at the ability of local trail cooperators on state trails being able to determine trail uses locally, particularly adding motorized uses to trails that are nonmotorized.

9. John Shank with the Ice Age Trail Alliance provided an overview of the IATA's Warrior Hike program. The program began on the Appalachian Trail and has since expanded to other long-distance trails including most recently the IAT. Starting in May of this year, two army women are hiking the IAT as part of the project.

10. Future agenda items/tasks:

- a. Newsletter, funding, positive items
- b. Officer elections
- c. Consider inviting Jeff Curry from the Great Headwaters
- d. Will Andresen – WI-MI connection (Blake will invite)
- e. Geoff will get in touch with potential replacement(s) for Ned Zuelsdorff

11. The next meeting of the NRTTC will be Wednesday, September 16, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. by telephone conference call.

12. Adjourned 1:18 p.m.